

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0038] to read as follows:

--FIG. 22(a) illustrates the preferred embodiment of FIG. 1, with an evanescent coupling layer of linearly varying thickness, also with FIGs. 22(b) and (c) illustrating the profiles of the input and output beam amplitudes as a function of z, as well as and FIG. 22(d) illustrated the overlap of the input and output beam amplitudes FIGs. 22(b) and (c).